

REMARKS

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action, applicant has carefully studied the Examiner's rejections and the comments relative thereto. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and following detailed arguments.

In this response, claims 28, 31, 41 and 52 have been amended. Claim 52 was amended to insert a final "." which was noted to have been omitted in the last amendment. Claim 31 was amended to depend from newly presented claim 53. Claim 53 was added herein. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been presented in any of these amendments. Also, as 24 claims were paid for in the initial filing it is respectfully submitted that no additional claims fees are due.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §112

Claim 41 was rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph for containing subject matter not supported by the original disclosure. In response thereto, claim 41 has been amended herein to replace 500°C with 50°C. This typographical error was inadvertently introduced in the last amendment and is now being corrected. It is believed that 50°C is supported by the original disclosure.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §103

Claims 28-31, 34-43, and 45-48 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Broyde in view of Mendiratta (US 4,668,768) and in evidence from

JP 03265641. Claims 33, 49, 51 and 52 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Broyde in view of Mendiratta and further in view of Grover (US 3,256,212).

Broyde discloses recompoundable polyvinyl chloride suitable to be recompounded for reuse in cable and wire production when recovered from a scrap material which includes plasticized polyvinyl chloride. A charge of plasticized polyvinyl chloride scrap material is treated with a solvent such as methyl ethyl ketone, tetrahydrofuran, cyclohexanone or dimethyl formamide to form a solvent mixture with one component thereof being a solvent solution of dissolved vinyl chloride polymer and plasticizers. The mixture is heated and agitated and scrap metal and other gross solids, if present, are removed. Then the solvent mixture is treated with an acid which advantageously causes a flocculation of suspended insolubles such as pigments and fillers. Except when using cyclohexanone as the solvent, the treatment with the acid must be accomplished in the presence of an additional flocculating agent such as a cellulose acetate which is soluble in the solution and which is insolubilized by the acid on refluxing. Recompoundable polyvinyl chloride is precipitated out by a non-solvent for the polyvinyl chloride which is miscible with the solvent in substantially all proportions, which will dissolve the plasticizer. The solvent and the non-solvent are removed from the plasticizer and are recovered separately by fractional distillation.

The process of Broyde is limited to PVC polymers. Furthermore, in this process, a mandatory flocculation step is conducted by adding an acid, an alkaline neutralizing agent and, if applicable, a flocculation agent.

Mendiratta discloses a method for isolating polymer resins from organic solvents is provided wherein the organic solvent is vaporized in a separation medium comprised of water and an organic anti-solvent for said polymer without significant vaporization of the organic anti-solvent. The polymer precipitates as a powder without high-speed, high-shear agitation and without the formation of a sticky globular mass.

Amended claim 28 discloses a method for separating and recovering target polymers and their additives selected from the group consisting of halogen-containing flame retardants from a material containing polymers. The method comprises dissolving the target polymer together with at least one additive in a solvent I. The dissolvent target polymer with the at least one additive is mixed with a first part of a non-aqueous solvent II, which is miscible with the solvent I, the target polymer is precipitated while the at least one additive remains in dissolved form. The precipitated target polymer and at least one additive present in liquid phase are separated; wherein the addition of the non-aqueous solvent II is effected in several stages. The target polymer is selected from the group consisting of: polystyrenes and copolymers thereof, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyethyleneterephthalates and polyvinyl butyrals. Thus, claim 28 has been amended to include the subject matter from claim 31.

Newly submitted claim 53 is similar to former independent claim 28, but has been amended to include the subject matter that the process is limited to a further physical separation step between step a) and b) from dependent claim 35.

It is believed, in view of the above, that no new matter has been added to the application by these amendments. Additionally, as the subject matter added to the

independent claims was previously presented in the dependent claims, it is submitted that no new issues have been raised.

With regard to independent claim 28, it is important to note that the Broyde reference is limited to PVC polymers. The use of PVC as the target polymer has been removed from the presently defined claims by the amendment to claim 28, which specifically notes compounds suitable as the target polymer. It is thus believed that Broyde is an improper reference to use as the base reference, as it is limited to a compound which is excluded from the present claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that no reasonable combination of Broyde with the secondary references would yield the present invention as Broyde is directed only to PVCs.

Claim 53, in the alternative, has been amended to require a separate physical separation stage between the previously pending steps a) and b). It should be noted that the physical separation step disclosed herein is much more cost effective than the process of Broyde, as a flocculation step together with the agents necessary for such step are much more cost-intensive than a physical separation which is easy to handle and for which no further agents are needed. It is respectfully submitted that no combination of Broyde with the secondary references can overcome this deficiency of Broyde. Therefore, it is believed that claim 53 is allowable over the applied art of record.

Claim 31, limiting the target polymers to material other than the PVC disclosed by Broyde, has been amended to depend from this claim. Therefore claim 31 is believed to further define over the applied reference for the reasons given above with respect to claim 28.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28 and 53 are allowable over the applied art of record. Claims 29-31 and 33-52, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 28 or 53 are believed to be allowable based, at least, upon this dependence. Therefore, all of the claims are believed to be allowable, and action towards that end is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to modify any of the language of the claims, applicants' attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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